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Ground Zero News

Circulation over 2500 this month and growing!

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In Major Cities and in Rural Settings GAY MEN AND LESBIANS and in particular GAY MEN ARE BEING MURDERED EXECUTION STYLE

And as a Result of Grotesque HATE CRIMES. MANY OF THESE ACTS OF MURDER CAN BE TRACED TO ACTIVE MEMBERS OF SKINHEAD, ARYAN AND RADICAL RIGHT GROUPS

MURDER ACROSS AMERICA

by Franklin Whitworth

A surprising number of these homicides, however, are by individuals with no identifiable affiliations. Many of these have used justifications gleaned from the literature of anti-gay and radical fundamentalist organizations. Many believe, like Paul Hill, the abortion clinic murderer, that they are acting on behalf of God and for the protection of Society and that the courts have no right to judge them.

In Texas, where gay murders have abounded in the last four years, not one such murderer has been executed. This despite the fact that Texas executes more criminals than any other state and, in fact, more than a vast number of the rest of the states.

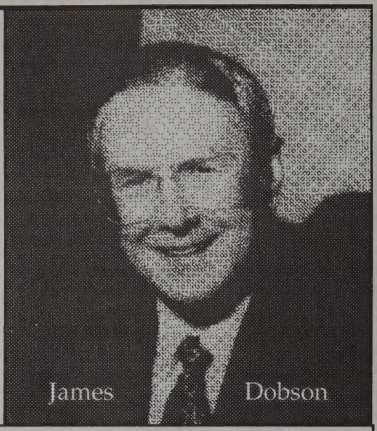
Often, those who have committed these murders, when they reach court, plead homosexual rage at being approached or touched for sex. More often than not, however, these claims do not surface until they talk to their lawyers. Even if so, Peri Jude Radecic of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force observes that "Sexual overtures certainly are not an excuse for taking a life," especially not in the manner that many, no, most of these murders occur.

Most of these crimes are grizzly, often described as overkill and often macabre. Torture and execution are terms particularly used in the description of the overwhelming number of these murders. Genital areas are frequently subjected to mutilation.

While Skinheads and Aryan Nation types are often indicated, many more are committed by a variety of other types. Particularly moved to these murders are youth, ranging in ages from 14 to 20. Robbery often occurs but it is usually an afterthought—not the main purpose of the act. CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

HRC CONFLICT P. 6 | PARADOX continues P. 8 | C.S GANGS P. 10 | GAYS VICTORIOUS P. 12 | CALENDAR RESOURCE GUIDE P. 23

James Dobson (right) led his **Focus on the Family** troops into battle on many political fronts. Notable among these was his support of Amend. 16 (The Censorship Amendment) in Colorado and his all out support for anti-gay Initiatives in Idaho and in Oregon. In these, and many others, Dobson and Focus lost. See stories, pp. 12&13



COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Many give Ground Zero support every month. Bonita, loyal and true, has been helping to update our database; Terry Lynn does whatever she's is need to do, Kevin is our photographer and Jim Valamier keeps our computers running and support that side of things. Thanks Gang.

MOVING????

Well, your GZN won't follow unless you let us know where you are. We mail Non-Profit Bulk Rate and that mail goes in the trash if not deliverable to the address on the mailing label!!! Editor

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CONTINUING IN THIS ISSUE

How does a child deal with the knowledge that his father is gay and his mother is a lesbian? *Ground Zero* has been given permission by Noel Black, a recent graduate of Lake Forrest College, to excerpt his award winning thesis entitled *Understanding Difference Through Paradox.* In this work Noel pursues both a personal and academic exploration of coming to terms with his parents' sexuality and his relationship with them. It is a fascinating and moving account of dealing with two gay parents in a homophobic society. This is part three and the series will run for several months. **(See P. 8)**

SPECIAL THANKS

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GROUND ZERO

A lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered supportive movement dedicated to securing and maintaining basic civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered citizens; and to unifying and promoting full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered citizens in the community at large through the means of education, coalition, and visibility.

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MURDER ACROSS AMERICA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Outside of Dallas, a young gay man was stripped, his fingers and toes were shot off, his genitals were slashed and then he was executed; throughout the Northeast, gay men are being killed and dismembered surgically, their body parts being left all over the countryside in garbage bags; in Reno, a gay man was stabbed by a Skinhead 21 times—he was just out seeking to kill a fag.

More numerous to list here are those gays and lesbians who are beaten and tortured prior to being killed. Lesbians are victimized by straight men who don't understand why they won't have sex with them. Their murders often follow sexual abuse and torture.

In Texas, a judge, when questioned why he gave a short sentence to a gay killer, responded that he put gays and prostitutes in the same category and he wasn't inclined to convict or sentence heavily killers of prostitutes either.

In Laurel, Mississippi, home of Camp Sister Spirit, the homophobic sheriff, who joined anti-Camp activities, tends to believe the sexual advance rage story of a teenager in the shooting murder of two gay men. These men had been shot numerous times after having been stripped and beaten. No one familiar with this case expects this young man to be seriously prosecuted or to receive serious punishment. It is interesting to note that the sexual rage story did not appear until later in the case. Early reports were that robbery was the reason.

From Maryland to Florida, a serial killer has killed a number of times in crimes that are described as particularly gruesome and violent—another serial killer appears to be victimizing gay men in the Carolinas.

For a detail of murder cases considered in preparing this report, see P. 18 .

At the same time that murders of this type are on the upswing, also growing are documented cases of assaults, arson, threats, cross burnings, intimidation, harassment, vandalism, etc., against gays and lesbians.

Los Angeles reports that gay and lesbian assaults and hate crimes are fully one third of all such investigated and KLANWATCH, a publication of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama, confirms this as being true nationwide according to their statistics. Reports across the country from police departments and local anti-violence organizations indicate a rapid increase in the report of hate crimes.

In all of the data that this reporter reviewed in preparation of this article, only one case of simple assault was found that appeared to be the action of a gay against a heterosexual relating to a hate crime. No murders were found.

It is an easy matter to relate this growth in anti-gay hate crimes to the campaign of intolerance and hate being waged against gays and lesbians by the Radical Right. Particularly the vilification of gays and lesbians as anti-family, disease carriers, child molesters, immoral, out to destroy the moral fiber of America, etc., would lead one to believe that those on the right fringe, who are the ones who most often commit these atrocities, are motivated by this campaign.

In fact, ministers such as Rev. Pete Peters of LaPorte, Colorado, and Rev. Fred Phelps, of Topeka, Kansas, are but two of many who have called for the extermination of homosexuals from the face of the earth, or have issued some equally provocative pronouncements. Rev. Mel White (author of STRANGER AT THE GATE) was recently on a radio program in the Northwest, where the opposing minister stated that he thought all homosexuals should be killed. He didn't think, however, that he should do it. That's what civilian authorities are for, he observed.

Reports from Midland, Texas, the center of gay murders and anti-gay violence in Texas, are that anti-gay hate and hate crimes are at an all time high and increasing at a feverish pace. Christian Coalition and radical right activities against gays and their so called "gay agenda" are put at the root of this activity.

Hate organizations are springing up all over the country, according to KLANWATCH. They, in fact, document over 300 such organizations in the United States alone in 1993—not breaking out individual chapters from the main bodies for the purpose of the count. In 1993, they report that hate crimes were the most brutal on record and indications are that 1994 has been even worse.

Particularly active in the growth area have been KKK, Aryan, Neo-Nazi, Patriot, Armed Militia and Skinhead movements. All of these groups are said not to be opposed to violence and members individually are often arrested for crimes of all types, ranging from robberies and assaults, hate crimes and vandalism, to the most violent of murders. Most of these groups claim a religious basis for their activities and philosophies—all are intolerant of gays and lesbians and most believe them to be fair game.

An overwhelming number of those who commit murders against gays and lesbians bring up some moral or religious conviction. A common defense by these people, like that of those who bomb clinics and kill doctors, is that they are under the direction of a higher power and do not feel they did anything wrong or that they should be punished. Often, they argue that man's court has no jurisdiction over them because they act as God's emissaries.

Many of those committing these murders and assaults are identified with Radical Right organizations and they are often associated with extremely conservative churches. They also will use justifications that they quote from the words of prominent Radical Right leaders and ministers taken from their publications, television shows and sermons.

An overwhelming number of hate crimes and murders committed against gays occur in Southern States, the Bible Belt and other predominantly "conservative" areas.

Dr. Mel White has charged that the likes of Focus on the Family, the Christian Coalition, Pat Robertson's Organizations, Jerry Falwell, Dr. James Kennedy, the Colorado for Family types, promote the hate and intolerance that leads to these murders and crimes of hate through their words and deeds, whether they intend to or not.

Whatever the root cause of the violence and murders being perpetrated against gays and lesbians, national groups and organizations have advised them to take precautions, to exercise care and to avoid chancy situations. No part of the country and no individual is immune to these acts of hate. ∇

As GZ News was going to press, it was announced that a suspect believed responsible for a number of deaths from Maryland to Florida had been arrested!

A RESPONSE FROM S-CAP

BY RICHARD BLAIR, DIRECTOR AND RESOURCE COORDINATOR

An answer to an opinion article written by Stan Wright published in the November 1994 Issue of GZ News

This letter is written in response to an [guest viewpoint] article in your November publication entitled, "Life Expectancy for HIV Patients is 58% Shorter Here Than in San Francisco." Although the letter covers a number of viewpoints relating to HIV care in El Paso County, there are several issues that I believe should be brought to your readers' attention.

My first concern is that the headline may be based on the author's assumption versus documented statistics. After speaking with the El Paso County Health Department and Dr. Ken Gershman, M.D. of the Colorado State Health Department's HIV/STD Surveillance Department, both agree that the documentation is not in place to specifically track all individuals from known exposure/infection, testing positive, AIDS diagnosis, to death. It is therefore extremely difficult to state an average lifespan for a person living with HIV. There are also numerous factors involved with a long term survivor and the personal choices they make.

As to the other concerns noted in the article ranging from prophylaxis treatments to the location of physicians treating people living with HIV, several advancements have taken place in El Paso County during the past several years.

The El Paso County Medical Society AIDS Task Force members, Colorado Springs Family Medicine Center, El Pomar Community Health Center, Infectious Disease Specialists, and numerous other private physicians provide excellent preventive assistance to people living with HIV. And to our knowledge, none of the agencies we work with have protocols limiting prophylaxis for PCP to after the onset of the infection. We are also aware of numerous clients who, for the past several years, have been prescribed and educated about Marinol and its possible usage in connection with the wasting syndrome.

In reference to the concern about a limited number of physicians available to treat HIV, this year Southern Colorado AIDS Project (S-CAP) and the El Paso County Medical Society AIDS Task Force began an HIV Physician Referral Program. Through this program, a number of HIV trained/educated individuals are available to assist people living with HIV. The statement that these individuals do not have the expertise to treat HIV is extremely short sighted. The Infectious Disease Specialists of Colorado Springs also provide consultation to local primary care providers on a regular basis. Additionally, several 1-800 numbers have been made available to physicians for specialized medical questions.

Another significant development in HIV care in southern Colorado has been the development of an HIV Nurse position between the El Paso County Health Department and S-CAP. The HIV nurse has regular scheduled hours at both the Health Department and S-CAP to provide diagnostic assistance, laboratory work for qualified individuals and preventive education. The HIV nurse also has the ability to travel to Pueblo, Alamosa and other areas in southern Colorado to provide assistance to S-CAP clients.

HIV+ individuals do have clinical trials available to them locally. Through a cooperative effort between a number of agencies in Colorado Springs, a person can be enrolled in a trial and not have to travel to Denver for blood and follow up work.

People living with HIV in Colorado Springs and the surrounding areas also have available to them the S.E.T. HIV Wellness Program which provides Cardiovascular Fitness Testing, Nutritional Counseling and Musculoskeletal Screening. Rose Rehabilitation of Colorado Springs provides their facilities to S-CAP clients as well.

Unlike many other epidemics throughout history, AIDS may well be one of the leaders in providing related information to concerned individuals. Currently more than 20 newsletters are received regularly in the S-CAP office, ranging from all the clinical trials, medical alerts, holistic issues, to publications written by HIV+ individuals for people living with HIV. A fact sheet file of almost 100 HIV specific related issues is also maintained and available.

The one thing that the HIV epidemic has taught many people is that we must become responsible for our own health. Based on my experience, more often than not, most people living with HIV do not actively become involved in their medical care until the onset of an infection.

We should always maintain a vigilance to educate people that early intervention can increase quality of life and help stop premature HIV related deaths.

Sincerely, Richard Blair

Richard Blair's valued viewpoint is printed here as a response to a viewpoint article by Stan Wright in the last issue. While their opinions differ, both Stan and Richard show a high degree of concern for the health and welfare of HIV positive individuals in the community. When asked about the differing viewpoints, Stan stated that his statistics came from the AMFAR annual statistical release and refers to El Paso County and other counties of similar size. In regard health care and availability of doctors to care for HIV positive patients, Stan sees the problem from the side of those who are on Medicaid—patients that Stan tries to find physician care for. He continues to insist that only 10% of physicians in El Paso County will accept HIV+ Medicaid patients and that treatments, especially prophylaxis, that are higher costs are often denied to these patients by their not being recommended or prescribed.

Both Stan and Richard agree that the HIV+ individual must be well educated on his condition, treatments and must be aware of his own body and his own needs and responses to treatment.

Stan has indicated that he and Richard may shortly cooperate on an article. *Ground Zero News* hopes to being it to you soon.

(Editor Ground Zero News)

Two Years Later

by Bob Mone, GZ President

ONE YEAR AGO

Ground Zero observed the one year anniversary of the passage of Amendment 2 with a week's activities, including a candlelight march trhough downtown joined by Donna Redwing (2nd row) of GLAAD USA, who spoke later in the evening.

At this time last year Ground Zero was ringing in its first year's existence, along with the one year anniversary of Amendment 2's passage, with a week long list of events entitled "One Year Later." At that time Amendment 2 was held up in court and expectation was high that it would be found unconstitutional although uncertainty abounded. This uncertainty was not limited to just the outcome of the amendment but to all aspects of gay and lesbian lives. We had just been through what felt like a lost war and as a community were feeling the devastating after-effects. What would we do next? What would be our direction? And who would help lead us there? These were but a few of the many questions racing through our minds the first year after November 2, 1992.

Donna Redwing who led the fight against measure nine in Oregon was our most honored and distinguished guest during last year's events. Donna lead the candlelight vigil through downtown and into First Congregational church where she delivered a most impassioned talk on the struggle she and her community were facing in Oregon fighting anti-gay organizers. Donna further talked about the similar struggles the Oregon and Colorado gay and lesbian communities faced and how this struggle would surely spread to many other communities, and how right she was. I remember being mesmerized by Donna's words when she talked about what she had experienced over the previous year which included ongoing harassments and threats on her life. As I sat and listened to Donna I felt a safeness that she was out there, somewhere, on our side, fighting for gay and lesbian people even if it wasn't here in Colorado.

I can only hope that this is how the Colorado Springs queer community feels about Ground Zero. I hope we give you, among other things, a feeling of security and safeness that we are here, a strong viable voice for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people to confront the organized assault on our lives. Because no matter what the outcome of Amendment 2 we need a visible gay and lesbian presence in Colorado Springs. Can you imagine what the alternative would be? Colorado Springs with no Ground Zero? Think about it! Ground Zero has matured and acquired valuable experience over the last two years and with each passing month becomes a much more effective organization. We have graduated from the school of hard knocks activism and look forward to using the degree earned to it's fullest. This knowledge will be critical in the coming years because organizations like Ground Zero have our work cut out for us. With the political climate taking such a drastic move to the right, the anti-gay crusade is sure to continue with a headstrong vengeance. Although there were some bright spots as a result of November's elections: defeated initiatives in Oregon and Idaho (albeit very slim margins) and 75% of Gay and Lesbian candidates from across the country were either newly elected or reelected, still the real and dangerous threat to out fundamental freedoms as gays and lesbians remain strong.

So as we head into our third year some of the uncertainty is gone for sure but we still face the month to month struggle to stay afloat. The Colorado Springs community has been very responsive and generous in the past and we are very thankful. We hope that you will continue to see us as a sound investment for the future security of our community and that you see the importance of our continued stability and existence. The entire community can be extremely proud on this second anniversary of Ground Zero with our heads held high because she owns a seasoned Gay and Lesbian organization that has managed to survive all the obstacles.

This December Ground Zero marks the second year of its existence, a milestone that not all can fully appreciate.

Embattled Human Relations Board Polarizes Community

by Donna Ladd
(A Free Lance Writer residing in Colorado Springs)

The battle over civil rights is once again brewing in Colorado Springs.

Over 150 people packed the City Council's chambers earlier this month for a public hearing on just what to do with the city's embattled Human Relations Commission. Many of the area's special interest groups were represented: the anti-gay Colorado for Family Values, the NAACP, Ground Zero, the Urban League, AIM, Citizens Project and the Colorado Springs Minority Coalition, just to name a few.

In June 1994, after years of controversy, the City Council put the board on hiatus for six months while trying to figure out what to do with it – and probably pondering the public relations implications of dismantling it altogether.

In the interim, Carla Hartsell, the city's Director of Community Services, was instructed to draft a proposal to bridge the gap between opponents and supporters of a human relations panel. Hartsell's recommendation, presented Oct. 6, would seem to be the compromise: change its name, forbid enforcement powers but leave it on the city's resume to appeal to all those relocating companies filled with a diverse range of employees.

The problem is, no one seems to want the compromise. All of the speakers of color and about half of the whites called for a stronger, more "empowered" commission; the opponents (all of whom were white) repeatedly called the rights group "redundant." Perhaps the strongest dissent came from Colorado for Family Values which maintains that the group is a "political temptation" for homosexuals.

Alexander Soifer, HRC Commissioner, is adamantly opposed to the new plan. He called HRC "a good line to have on the city roster for hi-tech companies inquiring about the city's climate" in a June 9, 1994 guest editorial in the *Gazette Telegraph*. He believes that Hartsell, along with City Manager Richard Zickefoose, wants to "keep the HRC; just make sure it does nothing and never comes back with a civil rights ordinance."

Hartsell says that the HRC has been able to do little on its own and that its mission was advisory all along. She says that the purpose of the City Council's vote to put the board on hiatus was to allow Community Services – which deals with discrimination complaints – "to give our opinion on what we thought could work to make an effective advisory board." She adds that including a civil rights enforcement charge was not a legal option: "The City Council's legislative agenda preempted me from looking at local enforcement," she said.

If the compromise is adopted, the word "community" will be stricken from the ordinance that defines the board's mission. The city clearly hopes this tighter definition will rein in board members who may believe they're on "a mission of community public policy advocacy," in Hartsell's words. The revised ordinance "doesn't give [the commissioners] the ability to go off and invoke the name of the City Council," she said.

Pikes Peak Urban League President Jerome Page urged the council to reinstate a strong human relations commission. "We have major work to do in human relations here," he said. "We're behind the times." He pointed out that similar groups in most other major cities have evolved into full-fledged civil rights commissions.

Other speakers denied that the city has a race problem. "A lot of these people don't realize what discrimination is," said local resident Robert Wibbelsmann. He called HRC supporters "minority groups that want to...force their ways on us." He added in closing,

"Why in hell won't they go to another city that will accept them?"

Local businessman Ed Bircham – a consistent opponent of gay rights – called the HRC "redundant," pointing out that his 23-year-old daughter can't get a job because she's white, eliciting audible moans from black audience members.

Skeleton Commission

Some say the city desperately wants to avoid another Civil Rights Ordinance such as that the board presented in 1991, whil preserving a skeleton of the grou that came together in the 1960s t fight racial prejudice in the are Over the years, the board has see its share of controversy, intern bickering and disagreement ov just how much power it yielded.

The unrest came to a head i 1991 when the HRC penned a ordinance proposal that, if adop ed, would have given the grou local enforcement authority ov civil rights violations. But, to th ordinance's demise, the languag included the words "sexual orie tation" which led to public outcr and ultimately to the anti-ga Amendment 2. Although HR deleted the gay rights languag before sending it to Council, th ordinance was already doome In some ways, so was th Commission.

Over the following three year the HRC seemingly couldn't g anything right. A request for Charter amendment which woul have divorced the group fro City Council's auspices faile Internal debates between mem bers of various special interests especially over gay rights issues made their way into the *Gazet Telegraph* (which has consistentl opposed the group's missions).

Despite the bickering on bo sides, James Smith of the Blac Coalition of Concerned Citizer puts ultimate blame on the Ci Council. "They're just playin games. What really counts is th intent of the City Council," h said. "Is their intent honorable? His answer is no. "Even a fiv year-old can look at the cond tions in this city, with a murd almost every day – and see thes things are done by human being Anybody with a little grain sense would know that a huma relations commission could ha its hands full 24 hours a day, 36 days a year."

Smith believes that the Ci Council should have its legal sta draft a strong human relatio ordinance for the city. Th Council should "tell them th want teeth in it so it'll work, pa it, and go to work with it," h said.

(Continued Next Page)

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The problem, as Smith sees it, is that locals who feel discriminated against don't always know where to turn for help. He points to a long history of housing, employment and legal discrimination in the Springs that is only somewhat improving. "They know racism in this city," he said.

Absent from the meeting because of illness was Vice Mayor Leon Young, the only Black member of the City Council, and the only member to vote for the 1991 ordinance. Earlier, when questioned on the current controversy, Young stated that "We need something. We have a lot of problems out there in the city. If you're not a minority, you don't understand some of the problems minorities are up against."

Prejudice: Legal or Illegal?

Illegal discrimination against minorities certainly exists, agrees Hartsell. "People just live with it," she said, perhaps because they don't believe anyone in power will believe them. "A lot of people in decision-making positions can't deal with the fact that we're now a city of 400,000," she said. "We're not homogenous little Colorado Springs anymore."

She, however, doesn't believe that a human relations commission has the authority to enforce civil rights abuses. One problem, she adds, is that the state provides very little concrete information about discrimination complaints to the city. "Now we only have anecdotal information," she said. "Passing a law for enforcement will not solve these kinds of issues." Without concrete numbers, it's difficult to convince the city to spend "the little tax dollars we have left after Amendment 1" on such a commission. "It's not a large group that you can say is suffering."

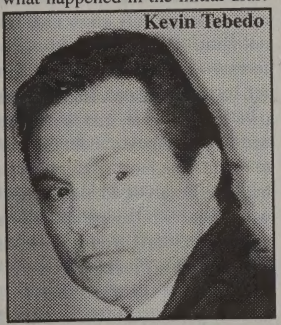
The language in her recommendation would certainly eliminate debate over just what abuses the board can dispense advice about. The words "illegal discrimination" would replace all more subjective references such as "prejudicial discrimination" and "unfair treatment."

"Unfair treatment is in the eye of the beholder," Hartsell said. That is, if it hasn't been declared illegal by the city or state, then the discrimination would be outside the scope of the Human Relations Advisory Board.

A City In Denial?

Opponents of a HRC argue that the laws on the books are enough to protect minorities. "There is no factually demonstrated need for an HRAB [Human Relations Advisory Board] to deal with illegal discrimination," wrote Kevin Tebedo in an October 28 letter to City Council members.

"There are plenty of laws on the books that minorities can use for discrimination," Tebedo said in an interview. He fears rather strongly that a human relations ordinance, in whatever form, would "open the door for any type of 'self-defined' victim group, such as homosexuals, to find their way into the HRAB's actions." Apparently, to his thinking, that's what happened in the initial draft



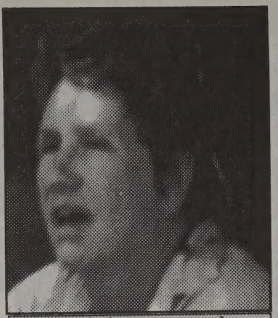
Kevin Tebedo

of the 1991 civil rights ordinance.

Tebedo sees a clear difference between discrimination based on race and that based on sexual preference. "Homosexuality is not equal to someone's skin color," he said. "I've never met an African American yet who believes that somebody's sexual behavior is equal to skin color.

"Homosexuals have suffered a different level of discrimination than black folks have," said Tebedo.

Others believe that prejudice against one is prejudice against all. "It isn't just a coincidence that [White House gunman] Duran came from here," said Minority Coalition member Rita Ague.



"We push hate every chance we get in this city. You can't turn on the radio without Chuck Baker and others pushing hate in one form or another. It's the denial that bothers me the most, Ague observed.

Judgment Awaits

City Councilmember John Hazlehurst says he is undecided about the recommendation. He does believe that a human relations board, in some form, "has a potentially very important role to play in Colorado Springs. Even if there wasn't a single gay person here, we could scarcely say that Colorado Springs is a model of inter-group relationships," he said. "Amendment 2 obscured the fact that minorities are increasingly shut out of power and denied access to redress of their grievances."

He clearly doesn't believe that the old HRC met these needs, however. And, he doesn't seem awfully optimistic that Hartsell's version will either. The problem, he says, is that the board is too restricted because of its link to the city. "The notion that the HRC ought to be a city board appointed by the City Council makes as little sense as saying that the ACLU ought to be an advisory group to the City Council," he said. "We have to break the paradigm."

How? "If I was the czar of HRC," Hazlehurst continued, "I'd appoint a county-wide blue ribbon panel with observers from the city, representatives from Focus on the Family, Citizens' Project, the downtown churches and the New Life churches. It would be a group of people with stature in the community whose combined efforts to improve human relations in this region could be extremely powerful."

But wouldn't *they* bicker? "Well, the role is necessarily going to be contemptuous if they're going to deal with the issues. If they can't deal with the issues, it's folly to expect that a group of citizens randomly chosen by the City Council wanting to embody their own prejudices is going to work."

Long-term residents Patricia and James Long spoke out against a city-appointed HRC, calling for "less government." However, the couple offered to do their part to help locals relate to each other. James Long invited "a Native American, a gay and a black person" to talk to him after the meeting. "I want to have you all over to dinner, to meet my family and we'll all talk," he said.

(Editor's Note Hearings on the proposed Human Relations Advisory Board will continue in City Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 29 at 6:30PM, approximately the time that this article will appear on newsstands. No decision will be made that night but a follow up story will certainly be in order. GZ News asked to publish Donna Ladd's story because we felt that a view of the controversy from an objective perspective would be of value.)

DANIEL STOHLER

Ground Zero sadly reports the passing of a friend from complications associated with AIDS. He was 43. Daniel was valued member of the gay and lesbian community in Los Angeles and, though we never met Daniel personally, when we were preparing the "Fast for Understanding" in June, we spoke with him many time in relation to the Fast and the support of the organization he founded, "Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice" in LA for the Fast. Subsequently, they sent us Samuel Behrens as a delegate, who has become a dear friend and supporter.

The members and Board of Ground Zero extend our heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Daniel and to the members of Christian Gay and Lesbian Community.

With you rests
DANIEL'S LEGACY

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCE THROUGH PARADOX (Part 3)

BY NOEL BLACK

In Part 1 of this series Noel Black, the author and narrator, was told by his mother that both she and his father are gay. His immediate reaction was one of anger and withdrawal. In the second segment of Noel's search for a way to understand and relate to his parents he was also confronted with the knowledge that his father had AIDS. Part three continues his search for a way to deal with being "different" in a homophobic society. This series is excerpted from Noel's award winning thesis of the same title.

I was able to put my father's sickness on the back burner for a few years, but when I came to Lake Forest he began to deteriorate. Each time I saw him he had lost about ten more pounds and aged about five more years. His bones consumed what little flesh he had; his rib cage tightened around his lungs, squeezed each breath out of him like a spider wrapping its prey. There would be no "resolution", no "cure" for his dying. It was then I longed to know who this man, my "father," *really* was; I wanted to know him as more than a gay man with AIDS. I wanted to know that he had given me other than his unspoken secrets and the blood of a procrastinator. It was then I began to look for *my* origin, my family.

As my father's strength diminished and his smile became more toothy I began to dig for answers and meaning. I looked for ways to approach him, to tell him that I needed to know his life and hear his stories so that I might understand myself. I wanted to find myself in relationship to my parents, the people I had set myself apart from, and to overcome our differences. However, a reunion with my parents demanded that I end the silence of their homosexuality, end the silence of AIDS, and redefine my own understanding of family. In this process, I have been forced to confront my own sexual identity., my homophobia, and my father's death; I have had to unearth the roots of difference, and comb the seedbed of American fear to find the hidden ground of my identity.

My struggle with difference has been, in large part, a struggle against the views and ideas of a homophobic society; against a culture —an America— that holds difference in contempt while pretending to sing its virtues. It has been a journey for self-definition and self-understanding that began when my school mates used words like "faggot", "homo" and "dyke" in the third grade, and I realized that my parents, should I need acceptable role models, would not be able to serve. And though I grew up without any formal religious training, I was also aware that it was the Biblical "God" who said that homosexuality is wrong, and that homosexuals are different. To accept my parents was, as a result, largely an attempt to understand "God", and why He does not accept difference. If "God" was *the* origin of all humanity, I needed to know how I could have *origin*ated from two homosexuals who were "different" from that origin. This search meant, however, that I needed to confront and, ultimately, do away with any notions that the Christian God is the *only* god. I could not accept God and my parents as my origin.

As I would later discover, the Christian god is based on difference: one can only know God because one is different from Him— not Him. Having rejected my parents on this same model of difference (I defined myself as "I am not gay, thus I am not them"), I felt lost. But when I began to search for an identity, to question my own homophobia, and to wonder who my parents were, I knew I had to find a new model for understanding myself in relationship to them. The most frightening part of this search for me was that I had been convinced that there was no model for understanding who I was in relationship to them. I had rejected my parents, and accepted my origin as the Christian God instead. But when I wanted to accept my parents as origin that meant I had to reject the societal model of the Christian God. I could not believe in both God and my parents, and believe that I was a self, that I had an "I". Yet still I was basing the concept of having an identity on difference. I needed a new model in which I could *include* my parents, myself, and God without having to reject or denounce any of them as different. ∇

PROPOSITION 187 AND ANTI-MULTICULTURALISM

From the same pot in which brew English Only Amendments, Anti-Gay-Measures, measures to destroy Civil Rights and Human Relations Commissions, movements to set up armed neighborhood militias, the Patriot Movement, racist organizations, skinheads, , anti-environmentalism, anti-choice, opposition to women's rights and equality, anti-semitism, suppression of Native American Culture, etc., etc., has come California's Proposition 187, recently sold to a large majority of Californians.

Proposition 187 is the wrong answer to a significant problem. It is a solution that is racist and damaging to the health and welfare of the children involved directly and that may indirectly promote health risks in the population at large by the way of epidemics indirectly.

Answers to the problem of the cost of supporting illegal immigrants in regard essential services is, indeed, a difficult one. Turning neighbors, friends, doctors and service givers into a reasonable facsimile of Hitler's SS and Communist Block Captains is not the answer. There is, in truth, no easy solution. Certainly, interdiction at the border makes more sense than endangering the health of children and the general population.

Ground Zero has joined its sister organization, LA GUIA, and virtually all Gay and Lesbian Groups in California in condemning Proposition 187 just as we have joined in condemning other acts of anti-multiculturalism in this Country that is part of a wave of intolerance, bigotry and discrimination that threatens to take us back to race baiting and race hating days of the past. W2 urge a joining of forces of all people who are being, or are in danger of being, oppressed by the same forces that have given us ghettoes, race hate, anti-semitism and intolerance in the past. Through coalition, we will be able to emerge victorious. ∇

I'M IMPRESSED

A Post Election Perspective

by Franklin Whitworth

With the election over, I have been taking some time to reflect on the new "Republican" majority and those people who will now fill some of the key positions in helping to guide the Ship of State. I am truly impressed.

In the leadership of the Armed Services Committee in the Senate we find Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, who has been in the House and Senate for sixty years, or thereabouts. Now you may remember ole' Strom for his "How can we expect our good white service boys to serve, live and work beside those stupid, dirty and immoral 'Nigras' (Nigra being the politically correct way for Southerners of the period to refer to Blacks in proper company) speech made in the House in 1948 when President Truman ordered the integration of the services.

Or you could remember the speech he made on the floor of the House opposing a federal law designed to outlaw lynchings that was proposed by President Truman in the same year.

Perhaps you may remember him as one of the leaders of the States Rights, secede-from-the-Union anti-Integrationist crowd of the fifties. No bigger bigoted race baiter ever existed than this old "Dixiecrat" who some believed coined the question "Would you let your sister marry one?"

Ole Strom has never voted for a civil rights bill or social justice bill of any type and is not the slightest bit reformed from his thinking in those days--he just watches his words closer. Of course, he has joined the anti-gay bandwagon with a flourish and a fervor. He is credited with the statement that heterosexuals cannot commit sodomy.

Running a close second, if not tied, with ole Strom for the title as bigot of the century is Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina. Jesse has served a decade or so less than Strom in Washington but he certainly has contributed as much to racism in the country. He ran hand in hand with Strom down the path of State's Rights, anti-Federal Government race baiting anti-integrationism and he too has never seen a civil rights bill, decision or social justice bill he liked. As a "Dixiecrat," he too raised the cry of secession in the face of the encroaching Federal government. Senator Helms will take the helm of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Is it a difficult leap of imagination to join these two with a third senator who will take control of another major committee? Good ole Bob Packwood, lady's man of the century, will step up to chair the Senate Finance Committee. How many dozen sexual harassment charges does this man have to have against him before he is kicked out of that august body. Well, when they start downsizing the number of support staffs, perhaps the women responsible to him can get a better deal if they just.....?

Also prancing onto the stage is Newt Gingrich, who will step into the shoes of Sam Rayburn and Tom Foley, though I am sure he will find them much too large. Newt comes from Cobb County, Georgia, where discrimination and racism continues to be a historic fact that permeates the county. Of course, it is Cobb County that recently passed a very vindicative anti-gay resolution that caused the Olympics to withdraw activities from the community and it was fun-loving Newt who, following the murder of the Smith Brothers by their mother, shamefully used their deaths for political purposes by saying that this was a perfect example why Americans should all vote Republican. A divorcee, Newt seems to have his problems with making alimony payments. It is difficult to imagine why. Newt's association with PAC money is legend and his GOPAC is one of the largest recipients of special interest money of anyone in the House or Senate.

One could go on through a dozen such noble leaders that are risen up to the majority but I am feeling slightly overwhelmed I am so impressed. It was difficult to even take notice of the defection of the right wing Senator from Alabama when he switched parties (but no one has ever paid much attention to him in the past anyway.)

But seriously, folks, there is something of importance to take note of in happenings since election day results became known. Seconds after they realized that they would control the Senate and the House, Bob Dole and gang issued the cry that we must work together and the Democrats mustn't try to be obstructionists. After all, they say, we are all Americans, aren't we? We shouldn't, they advised, begin to only look forward to how we can elect a President in 1996 but, rather, we should get on with the business of running the country. This was followed quickly by ANTI-GATT Strom Thurmond's not so veiled threat, roundly endorsed by Jesse Helms--If you don't push GATT you might find me easier to work with in the Senate, Mr. President.

Of course, what theRepublicans did from the time they realized that President Clinton was getting a lot done, passing a lot of good bills and accomplishing a lot for America, and that many Republicans were voting with him, is exactly what they are now telling Democrats they mustn't do. They set about to make everything ugly and present an image of a do-nothing President as they set up obstructions to his being able to do anything.

Well, their strategy worked and combining their caterwauling with the ravings of Pat Robertson and gang, they accomplished their purpose no matter how much it hurt the country. The truth is that the Democrats could probably use the same strategy to help bring them down. One hopes they don't. While we should certainly expect the Democrats to work to protect matters of great philosophical import and defend the principles upon which they are founded, it would be a sore disappointment if they just became a party of obstructionism--that which the Republicans have so often been. Congress, indeed, does need to get on with affairs of State and stop looking forward to the next election as if being elected is all that is important.

And, finally, a special message to Senator Bob Dole. You have noted that the last time that there was a Republican controlled House and Senate was during the time of President Dwight Eisenhower. There is a very good reason for this, Senator Dole. During that time, America was cast down into one of the greatest recessions it had ever known. It is one of the primary reasons there have been so few Republican controlled Senates and Houses since. ∇

G A N G S
A COLORADO SPRINGS
R E A L I T Y

by **Julie Cooper**

"I wear a bullet-proof vest when I'm on duty," said an officer of the Colorado Springs Police Department, "but not when I'm on a date."

But the youth in the Sand Creek Sub-station of the CSPD wore one. That kid with the blue bandanna headband playing with his fingers. The vest was worn under an over-sized "Raiders" jacket that neatly hid a holstered, semi-automatic rifle. Police officers picked him up with his girlfriend for violating the city's new curfew laws. His blue headband and intricate finger gestures identified him as a member of a gang called the Crips.

Big city gangs such as the Crips, the Bloods, the Aryan Youth, Juaritos, Skinheads, the Black Gangster Disciples, and the Neo-Nazis, have found their way into the Colorado Springs area through people's normal migration patterns, according to Capt. Velez of the Colorado Springs Police Department.

As people move from large urban areas to smaller ones, they bring what they know with them. The recent population influx from larger east and west coast cities explains the rapid rise in gangs and gang activity in the Colorado Springs area over the last three years.

But sleepy Colorado Springs was not ready for the big-city gangs that the rapid growth and coastal population migration brought.

"Gangs are a part of big-city life," said former New York City school teacher Sharon Green, "but Colorado Springs residents still see this city as a small town, even though we have big city problems."

These "big city problems" disturbed the Colorado Springs Police Department. So three years ago they created a three-step program called "Gang-net" (Gang Intervention Network).

"The first thing we needed to do was educate the public about gang activity," Velez said.

The CSPD created a slide presentation that defined gang graffiti, symbols and activities, explained the use of colors, gang differences, their emphasis on weapons, especially guns, and taught families and citizens how to recognize and deal with gang activity in their neighborhood.

But don't be fooled by the age of the members in a gang. Gang "wanna be's" and gang "runners" are as young as 7-12 years old. Gang members know that authorities can't prosecute youth under ten years of age and use these babies for drug running and thefts. Those youths aged 10-13 are the "wanna be's" who mimic gang actions and apparel, and pretend to be in the gang.

The Ku Klux Klan, White Supremacists, American Nazi Party, The Third Party and the Invisible Knights, are all gangs tailor-made for the older bigot. Unlike other youth gang members who either never see their 25th birthday or end up in underground drug or crime circles, members of "White Supremacists" youth gangs often grow up to be members of adult gangs such as the White Aryan Race, the KKK and others. Shawn Slater, head of the Colorado Ku Klux Klan, is himself a former skinhead.

The American Defamation League reports that there are indications that Tom Mentzger, leader of the White Aryan Resistance (WAR), has been recruiting skinheads in Colorado from the Rocky Mountain Hammer Skins organization. Skinheads in Colorado, including Colorado Springs, have participated in rallies organized by the Colorado KKK, most notably the Martin Luther King Jr. rallies in Denver.

The KKK, White Supremists and The American Nazi Party are alive and well and living here in our home town, recruiting our youth. Only they don't wear the white hoods or "Raiders" jackets in public anymore; they wear business suits and ties.

The influx of youth gangs means an influx of violence. And that violence is far too often a manifestation of the prejudice and hate running rampant on the large, urban streets.

Lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people must be keenly aware that this hateful violence, without provocation, can and will be aimed at them.

The "Klanwatch," a bi-monthly newsletter that is a watchdog for Klan activity nationwide, reports that 12 percent of all hate crimes were sexual orientation bias related. Seventy percent of all hate crimes in the country last year were directed at persons (vs. random vandalism), according to 1993 FBI statistics.

Sexual orientation hate crimes are committed in every community across the country, from the most remote pockets of rural America to the crowded streets of our largest cities.

In Washington D.C., on Jan. 7, a lesbian, Ana Maria Rosales, was shot to death outside a gay bar by a man who solicited sex from her and asked what was "wrong" with her.

In Tyler, Texas, Nov. 30, 1993, a gay man was abducted, robbed and shot to death. The murderers were only 17 and 19 years-of-age.
(See *Murder Across America-P. 1)*

Recently, in Colorado Springs behind a gay bar, a local gay man was beaten with a metal pipe, robbed, and left to stagger back inside where wait-staff called an ambulance.

Though some hate-crimes are not gang related, the perpetuation of hate by any group spills over into mainstream society and creates an atmosphere of hate in the community that leads to violence and violent crimes.

We can take steps to protect ourselves and clean up youth gangs in our own city by arming ourselves with knowledge of gangs, who they are and how they operate, and by taking courses of action that discourage and diminish gang activity in our neighborhoods.

Are there gangs in your area? Best rule of thumb is, if there's graffiti, assume you've got gangs.

Most graffiti is gang-related. It's how they mark out their turfs, identify themselves, and how they communicate with each other. **Graffiti is the phone-line of gang activity.**

There are specific words, phrases and symbols used in graffiti communication that must become public knowledge. The graffiti language is a major part of gang power. Once their codes are broken, their communication and power-hold are greatly diminished.

One way to identify gang graffiti is through the "signing-offs." These are unusual code names or titles such as "Ace," "Pyro," "Lobster," "Bulldog," and simple drawings such as birds, dogs, etc., that are given to gang members by their gang once initiated. They appear under gang messages and are often easier to read than the message itself.

Graffiti messages will often contain announcements. "RIP" (Rest in Peace or Rest in Pain) means that particular gang or gang member will kill someone, or has been killed. "Slobs" are the Crips name for the Bloods and usually associated with another word such as "killa,"(a killing or killer), or "bust."

A dollar sign ($) means there are drugs readily available from the gang on that "turf." "O.G." is for "original gangsta," a sign-off or tribute to an established, older gang member. "WAR" is for White Aryan Resistance, and "WAY" is for White Aryan Youth.

The number 13 doesn't mean bad luck, it means that marijuana or mescaline (both beginning with the 13th letter of the alphabet) is available. When you see the number 81, 81st or 81st St. in graffiti it means that Crips are active in the area. The 81 is taken from the Los Angeles 81st St. Crips, one of the toughest gangs in that city. "187" on graffiti comes from L.A. gang graffiti and is the California penal code for homicide. A murder has or will be committed.

"BK" in graffiti ***(continued next page)***

doesn't stand for a new burger, it's short for "Blood Killers," and usually means a gang war is "going down." "Vice" is short for the Vice-Lords, a gang out of Chicago that is the oldest documented gang in the country. It originally dealt in prostitution rings in the 1920's and now deals in drugs.

"Ducky-boys" refers to Skinheads who make their home predominantly on the east, north and northeast ends of town. "White Pride" graffiti is based in the white-race gangs such as Neo-Nazis, Skinheads and the Aryan Race. "Standing Proud," "AWP," (Awake White People), PEN1 (Public Enemy No. 1), and "Bred to Hate" logos as well as swastikas, iron crosses and celtic crosses are popular with these groups.

Graffiti lettering is often blocky, but can be quite elaborate, making it difficult to read. Scenic pictures are often gang-related and will tell a story of that gang; its history, its material wants and its goals. They can often relay symbolic messages.

Gangs write over and cross off each others messages, usually in their gang color or in black. "X's" over gang names or the first letter of the gang name purposely show severe disrespect and beg retaliation.

Gangs classify themselves through colors. Red and sometimes green is the color of the Bloods, blue and sometimes purple for the Crips, and brown or black for the hispanic gangs. Showing their colors identifies gang members to each other and how that color is worn is significant. Shoelaces in the gang color are popular as well as are bandannas that are worn around the head, arm or leg. If a bandanna, also called "a durag," is hanging out of a back pocket or belt loop, that member is usually on a mission or patrolling for their gang.

National Football League (sometimes collegiate teams) and National Hockey League caps and stadium jackets are popular with gangs. But don't assume that any kid wearing a sports-logo jacket is a gang member, most aren't. The gang jacket is usually altered in some way; with gang colors colored into the lettering, sewn on the arm or collar or gang names or code names embossed, often crudely, under the team name. Letters are often removed, blacked-out or crossed off.

The jackets, always grossly oversized, are used to flaunt their gang involvement and to hide any variety of gear including weapons, liquor, or bullet-proof vests, and are perfect for stealing merchandise.

Curiously, Pendleton shirts are popular with several hispanic gangs, worn buttoned all the way up the neck, and combined with baggy pants with deep pockets, again prime apparel for concealing stolen goods.

Weaponry is a sign of a gang's power and defiance. Every conceivable weapon is used by gangs: knives, daggers, handguns, pistols, sawed off shot-guns, semi-automatics, and even automatics; some can fire off 30 rounds in 1.5 seconds. All are carried neatly out of sight, cradled in harnesses under those oversized stadium jackets. Pipes, bats, chains and bricks are also gang weapons which are easily concealed under these jackets.

Malls, of course, and downtown areas, are favorite predatory grounds for gang members carrying "heat." It is its personal security system as well as a purchased replacement for the self esteem and personal identity lost so long ago.

Gangs also communicate with intricate hand signs. Each gang develops its own or alters others' signs to fit their needs. These gestures are difficult to identify as they change from gang to gang, but, you can be aware that they do exist and they are not based in American Sign Language of the hearing impaired. If you're concerned that a loved-one or neighbor is involved in gang activity, watch for the practicing of certain hand and finger gestures being repeated into memory.

Indeed, 40 active gangs have been identified in Colorado Springs. These support 330 gang members who commit about 15 percent of the crimes, reports Capt. Velez.

That's a large percentage of crimes committed by a small percentage of the population in a city of just over 350,000, Velez said.

Capt. Velez indicated that the best defense against gangs is a good offense.

Capt. Velez and his police task force committee have developed a program designed to eliminate graffiti quickly, but he needs the help of Colorado Springs citizens for full implementation. Velez has set up an agreement with the juvenile court system to counter gang graffiti. Youth needing to do community service go into neighborhoods where graffiti has been identified and paint over the markings, under adult supervision, with paint donated to this specific project. This helps cut the lines of gang communication and diminishes their communication with each other, their major power source. It also sends a powerful message from the community that gangs will not be tolerated in their area.

Call the police department and let them know specifically where in your neighborhood gang graffiti appears. An officer will photograph the graffiti to help track gang activity and a team of youth will be out, usually within a week, to paint over it.

With the help and information from other police departments' computer network, especially Denver, police officials have been able to identify and track each gang as it comes into existence in the Springs.

Individual gang members are similarly monitored according to Velez.

"There are certain criteria for getting on our gang-member list," Velez said, "but once you're on our list, we will monitor your activity and make sure we know what groups you're moving in and out of and the first opportunity we get to arrest you, we will arrest you."

The police department has an agreement with the District Attorney's office. Once a youth is arrested, the first time usually for a misdemeanor, and identified as a gang member, that record is flagged. Every move that youth makes is now monitored. The next time the youth is charged with a crime and appears before the D.A., he or she is prosecuted to the maximum which that office is allowed to prosecute.

Velez sees these steps as a major deterrent to gang criminal activity.

In 1992, there were 260 gang-related, misdemeanor arrests. In 1993, there were 600, an increase of 130 percent. Granted, some were multiple arrests, but Velez believes they're sending a strong message to the gangs.

"If we were not out arresting them, they would be out committing crimes," Velez said. "we're taking them out of circulation to some extent.

"If we're targeting them, and we're hitting them, and we're hitting them every time they turn around, the system may crunch them and make mulch (out of the gangs), and they'll get tired of being tracked and hit and just leave town, which is what we hope they'll do."

Let's all hope that exactly what they'll do.

BE GANG SAVVY

1) Know the gang colors, clothing, symbols and how they identify themselves.
2) Notify the police, public safety division, 630-1111 ext. 2773 if you notice graffiti in your area.
3) Alert police if you are in public place and suspect gang activity deduced from the above criteria. Be specific when relaying information to the officer.
4) Be aware of repetitive finger and hand gestures flashed by youths.
5) Become a "Neighborhood Watch" neighborhood. Call 444-7593 for more info mation. This program takes very little time and creates a protective shield for you neighborhood. Gangs don't like to be watched and tracked.
6) Teach everyone you know about gangs and how they are identified. The more people know, the less of a secret gang activity is and the less gangs can use fear and intimidation as their weapons, and the more their power is diminished.

HOCUS FOCUS

THE Political Focus

Recently, in the *COLORADO SPRINGS INDEPENDENT,* an official of ***Focus on the Family*** made the statement that **Focus** couldn't work for the election of candidates for office but they could work to influence initiatives.

On Friday, November 18, they repeated this claim to a reporter for *Nation* Magazine

This is, of course, patently incorrect. IRS regulations state that a 501 (C) (3) corporation may not support or oppose political candidates or legislation nor may they organize people for the purpose of political activity, all of which ***Focus*** has done.

Initiatives are legislation just as the people are the ultimate legislators. As legislation, ***Focus*** is forbidden to work for t passage or defeat. Focus not only worked for a number of initiatives recently across the country but, also, they organized people for political activity.

In Idaho and Oregon, Dr. Dobson led the ***Focus*** vanguard to fight for the passage of the Anti-gay initiatives by sending out mass mailed letters of endorsement, on radio and television and through political groups that they helped organize, called by various names, usually including Community Family Resource Councils.

Those opposing these initiatives in both Idaho and Oregon say that ***Focus*** expended a great deal of money in both states as well as a great deal of time and energy.

The same is true in Colorado, where, among others, ***Focus*** was heavily invested in promoting passage of Initiative 16, the Censorship Initiative. Not only did they financially support the campaign, they also mass mailed endorsements from Dobson, made endorsements through media appearances and through organizing groups, or by using groups that they had already organized, to promote passage, including gathering ministers for the purpose of educating them how to support and assist in the passage of that initiative.

Focus, and it leader Dobson, continue to flaunt IRS law with impunity. They also appear to continue to be out of step with the majority of Americans. All three of these initiatives lost--major defeats for the ***Focus*** political machinery!!! ∇

SPECIAL TO GROUND ZERO

GAY INITIATIVES & CANDIDATES BUCK CONSERVATIVE TREND--SCORE BIG!!

by KATHLEEN DEBOLD

"There is a major difference between a friend and a gay person in office. It's not enough to have a friend represent us, no matter how good these friends may be. We must give people the chance to judge us by our own leaders, and by our own legislators." **Harvey Milk**

One reason that lesbians and gay men find the political process so frustrating is because we are the most underrepresented group in American government. Of the

*100 U. S.Senators, none are **openly** gay or lesbian;
*435 U.S. Congressmen, only three are **openly** gay or lesbian;
*7,461 members of state legislatures, only 14 are **openly** gay or lesbian;
*497,155 elected officials currently serving in the United States, only 105 are **openly** gay or lesbian.

The inclusion and empowerment of gay men and lesbians in the political process can only happen when we are represented by our own. Time and time again, we have invested our hopes and our energy and our money into electing "friends," only to discover that when the pressures on, our rights and our progress are indeed negotiable. These experiences have taught us that no matter how well-meaning our friends and supporters are, no one has as strong an interest in our issues and rights as we do.

Openly gay and lesbian officials guarantee us a place at the table where decisions concerning our lives are made. They work within the system to protect the civil rights of all Americans. They sponsor anti-discrimination legislation and hate crime bills. They block anti-gay referenda. They appoint other qualified open gays and lesbians to public office. They fight for AIDS funding, breast cancer research, and other gay/lesbian health issues. They serve as positive role models for gay and lesbian youth. They promote positive gay and lesbian visibility and dispel the stereotyped images of gay men and lesbians. And, they give other gay people the courage to come out.

Geraldine Ferraro wrote that "Every time a woman runs for office it's like throwing a stone in a lake. The ripple effect is felt far beyond the immediate point of contact." When an openly gay candidate runs for office it's like throwing a boulder into that lake. All recent polls and focus groups show that people who know a lesbian or gay man are less likely to vote for anti-gay legislation. And people who have a lesbian or gay friend are much less likely to support gay rights. When an openly gay candidate runs for office, he comes out to thousands of voters, walking door to door, shaking hands, listening to people's concerns. Because of this, thousands more people now know someone who is gay. And when that candidate is elected, and his constituents see him fighting for their concerns in the legislature, that's thousands more people who have a friends who is gay.

Continued next page

The Radical Right has become adept at using the political process to undermine the democratic foundations of our country. Recruiting, training, and electing our leaders is one of the best ways for us to beat them at their own games. In fact, despite the other setbacks in the November elections, when it came to electing our own, we excelled: These unprecedented victories for openly gay candidates are especially significant in light of the overall conservative swing of the electorate. Each of these candidates won two races—one against their opponents, the other against the rightwing's distorted image of gay men and lesbians. The election results (including the defeat of anti-gay ballot initiatives in Oregon and Idaho) send a clear message that the extremist viewpoints which lead to hate campaigns and gaybaiting are out of step with mainstream America. These qualified openly gay candidates won because their personal and community values are consistent with those of the average American family—values like hard work, responsibility, and respect for others.

—Kathleen DeBold is the Deputy Director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a national donor network committed to increasing the number of qualified openly gay and lesbian officials.

***We broke the "Lavender Ceiling" by electing the first openly gay officials to the California State Assembly (Sheila Kuehl). Washington State Senate (Cal Anderson), the Missouri House of Representatives (Tim Van Zandt), and the Arizona House of Representatives (Ken Cheuvront).**

***We elected the first openly Republican state legislator in the nation Oregon State Representative-elect Chuck Carpenter.**

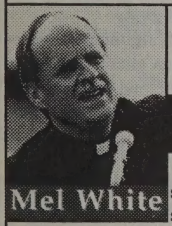
***We pulled off a "Lavender Sweep" in San Francisco by electing all three openly gay candidates (Susan Leal,Carole Migden, Tom Ammiano) for the board of Supervisors, as well as both ope ly gay candidates for the Community College Board (Leslie Katz and Lawrence Wong).**

***We elected the first openly lesbian/gay judges in Miami, Chicago, and San Diego, and added another in Los Angeles.**

***Every gay incumbent on the ballot was re-elected, including all three openly gay Congressmen (Gerry Studds, Barney Frank and Steve Gunderson).**

***Thirteen of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund's openly gay candidates were elected across the nation—an astonish ing 76.4 percent success rate.**

No one is naive enough to thing that electing qualified openly gay and lesbian official is the answer to our political problems, but it is one of the answers. And it works. ∇



A GAY PARABLE

by Reverend Mel White

BULL

Gary and I {Gary Nixon is Mel's Life Partner] bought a little farm in Texas, and one of the first days we were there we saw a big old snake. I don't like snakes--snakes scare me. So I got a hoe, and I went out to kill this snake while Gary, being smarter than me, called the game warden.

The game warden said to describe the snake and Gary described it and the game warden said, "It's a bull snake. It's part of part of your ecology. And if it's big it means it's been there a long time protecting you from cottonmouths and moccasins and from rats and rodents. If you have to kill it just because it's ugly to you, go ahead. But if you do you'll be making a mistake, because its like a guardian of your house. You'll occasionally see it going over to take a drink from the pond, but then it'll go back to doing its beautiful business silently. Don't kill it."

So I let that snake go. I stood there with my hoe like the guy in the painting, *American Gothic,* and Gary stood with the phone in his had, and we watched the snake go and take a drink from the pond and we looked at each other as if to say, "Should we believe the game warden?"

Month after month, Bull would appear now and then. We never saw a rat. We never saw a mocassin. Old Bull was out there doing his job.

Then one day, Gary came into me ashen. We'd just gotten a riding mower. Gary was practically in tears. And he said, "I just killed bull."

And I teared up. and from there we stood. Two farm boys. We just killed Bull. What a difference it made when we learned that snake was a part of our ecology, and all it wanted was to drink from the pond with everyone else.

What a story about lesbian and gay people! Why do they hate us? Where does it come from--this kind of hatred? The solution is to know that we're part of the ecology, and all we want to do is to drink from your pond, to be accepted and be judged by our character...

(Mel White, author of *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America,* led the *FAST FOR UNDERSTANDING* out side of FOCUS ON THE FAMILY in July of 1994, coordinated by Ground Zero on behalf of the Gay and Lesbian Community. He told this parable at one of the gatherings that week. Recently, while campaigning against Proposition 1 in Idaho, he retold the story. The Boise Idaho gay community Newspaper, *DIVERSITY,* did a wonderful job of recording the parable (11/94) and we have taken the liberty of reprinting it for your enjoyment.) ∇

Is counter-oppression counter-productive?

HOW DARE YOU QUESTION US!!!

A commentary written for ***Ground Zero News***
by Glenn Stehle
Associate Editor and regular contributor to
San Antonio's ***MARQUISE MAGAZINE***

How dare you question us!

This admonition seems to be emanating all too frequently from some of our gay and lesbian leadership these days.

More subtle, but probably just as damaging, is the failure on the part of many of our leaders to pay attention to the little things—the hand shakes, the returned phone calls, the letters answered—the common-touch gestures so important in creating an attitude of inclusion and appreciation.

And now our elite, who have faced few challenges to their monopoly of gay and lesbian political power over the last 25 years are paying the price. The rumble from the hinterlands is growing louder and louder. "We want to be heard! We want input! We want results!" From national figures like Camille Paglia (featured on the cover of the October issue of the *Advocate*), Bruce Bawer and Michelangelo Signorile; to statewide leaders (here in Texas one of our most vociferous has been Paul von Wupperfeld, State President of the Log Cabin Republicans); to rank and file members of local political organizations; people are getting fed up with being treated like, as one local activist so succinctly put it, "the ignorant peasant class." Fewer and fewer people are willing to pledge blind, unquestioning loyalty to a political elite that many perceive as having become fat, arrogant, ineffective and unresponsive.

I went to hear Pat Robertson when he spoke to the Assembly of God convention a couple of months ago in San Antonio. Our gay and lesbian leadership could certainly take a lesson or two from him. He was addressing a gathering of lay people, but Robertson treated them like kings and queens. He heaped affirmation and praise on both the leadership and the rank and file and no person was left feeling ignored or left out. There were no reprimands, no reproaches and no chiding.

Robertson then moved in the body of his speech, and this is where he really began to separate himself from our gay and lesbian elite. There was none of this "I said it, so that makes it true" routine. Robertson was very careful to document everything he said, whether it was by quoting passages from the *Bible* or by citing some report or statistic (bogus as they may have been). Robertson explained and argued and sold his position—he did not try to cram anything down these people's throats nor did he expect them to accept his position carte blanche.

So how do our gay and lesbian elite respond to challenges from within their own community? One of the most feeble arguments I hear coming from them is the "victim" argument. It goes something like this: "We are the victims of oppression and abuse. Numerous studies have shown that those who have been abused are predisposed to becoming abusers themselves. We are therefore entitled to some sort of special dispensation and our hyper-vigilance and abusive behavior should be overlooked."

The *Bible* is one of the weapons most frequently used to club gays and lesbians over the head. I guess we've all had scriptures quoted at us, telling us what abominations we are. But does this give us license to retaliate by being anti-*Bible*? Anti-Christian?

Robert Goss, writing in his recently published book, *JESUS ACTED UP: A GAY AND LESBIAN MANIFESTO*, eloquently states a position with which I am in wholehearted agreement: "Gay men and lesbians do not want to reproduce the cycles of ecclesial oppression with counter-oppressive action. Their actions must be balanced with love-making and justice-doing." This does not mean that we should be silent. As Goss explains, "Critical confrontation of ecclesial oppression is...essential to political communication. [It] is not an end but a means to a political end; it can contribute to real gains only when it leads to dialogue, change, or both."

Violence and abuse in our society are so pervasive—racial, gender, ethnic, ecclesial, ideological, class, child, spousal, etc.—that just about anyone can law claim to some sort of victim status these days. I know it may come as a great shock and disappointment to those in our community promoting victimization politics, but there is absolutely no empirical evidence to indicate any greater incidence of psychopathology amongst gays than amongst the population at large. This is according to Dr. Richard Friedman, writing in his book, *MALE HOMOSEXUALITY: A CONTEMPORARY PSYCHOANALYTIC PERSPECTIVE.* So guess what? We're no more disturbed or disordered than the society at large!

So I Think the victim status argument is a cop out. We have a duty to both ourselves and to others to not only try to be tolerant and accepting, but to go the extra step of being supportive and appreciative of each other. This should be our goal, and we should not let some claim to victim status, imaginary or real, stand in our way of striving for that goal.

Another prominent argument I hear from our gay and lesbian elite is this one, and this one is just the end-all of arrogance: "The very complex dynamics of this community, and particularly its ethnic, gender, organizational, racial and sexual politics are just too complicated for you to understand."

My response to this argument is this: "Earth to somewhere in deep space! I may just decide to make my alliances with other affluent white males, whom I at least understand and who are a heck of a lot less domineering and abusive than you are! I may decide to make my alliances with Christians—their 55% of the population sure looks alot better than your paltry ranks! I may decide to make my alliances with the Republican party—that's certainly where my economic interests lie!"

None of this is to say that I may not yet follow your lead. But if I do, you are going to have to do a selling job. And you can bet your **(Cont. next page)**

sweet bippy that I'm only going to follow you if I feel it's in my own best interest to do so. Gays and lesbians are a tiny minority, and our only chance of success is by appealing to other people's sense of fairness, justice and self-preservation. We do not have the numbers nor the power to be the enforcers. It is necessary that we be engaged in the business of selling, not dictating.

The November 8th deconstruction of the Democratic and liberal left establishments has created a vacuum. The radical right has rushed in to fill this vacuum, but it is off to a bad start. Newt Gingrich has already elevated social issues such as school prayer and gay bashing to the top of his political agenda, this could be a fatal mistake if he gets hung up there and fails to deliver on the issues important to most Americans—crime, education, jobs and an eroding purchasing power.

I predict the radical right is going to drop the ball, and if we play our cards right, we can be there to help pick the ball back up. But this will only happen if our own leadership becomes more considerate and responsive to the needs of its own people and to the needs of others; and if it stops bashing its own people over the head. ∇

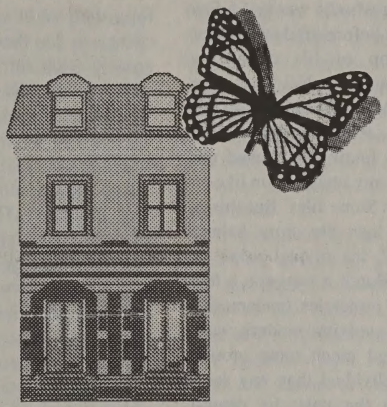
GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH OUTREACH NEEDED

Inside/Out, the gay and lesbian youth support group of Colorado springs, is in need of volunteers who would be willing to go into high schools and speak with counselors regarding the posting of flyers of the group's announcements. It may seem like a simple task, but it's one which requires a great deal of tact. If anyone is interested or would like to share ideas from other outreach groups, call Regina at (719) 578-3160. It's worth the effort to prevent another teen suicide.

GROUND ZERO

The Board and members of GROUND ZERO extend to all wishes for

A Rewarding Season and a bountiful New Year



To provide assistance with housing and household issues to individuals in Southern Colorado infected with H.I.V. To assist in addressing unmet needs in the H.I.V. affected community of Southern Colorado

from Mission Statement

The Monarch House Group, Inc.

The Monarch House Group, Inc. is a Colorado Springs based, Not-for-Profit agency registered with the IRS and the State of Colorado that assists People Living With AIDS (PLWAs). Current programs include:

**Our ever-growing *FOOD BANK AND PANTRY* allows us, in con junction with several local churches and the Southern Colorado AIDS Project (S-CAP) to distribute food, personal care items, etc. to approximately 25 families each month. Contributions to the Food Bank and Pantry are always appreciated.

**Our Monthly Emergency Rent/Mortgage Subsidy Program has been able to assist 25 PLWAs and their families and loved ones to stay in homes of their choice during financial emergencies in the last eight months. In addition, we assisted in securing low income housing for PLWAs.

**We continue to provide an on going point of contact and referral between PLWAs and AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs)

**WE are currently applying for grants and endowments that will help towards our long term goal of a residence for low income PLWAs. Initial projections include space for 6-8 clients with two units designated for short-term emergency housing and accommodations for visiting family members.

To volunteer or make a tax-deductible donation, contact MHG at PO Box 8196, Colorado Springs, CO 80933 or call (719) 634-0133.

A QUESTION OF HONOR

(A review of Joseph Steffan's book *HONOR BOUND*. Bill Boushka is a principal writer and supporter of THE QUILL, a publication of the Gays and Lesbians for Individual Liberty (GLIL). For information about GLIL, write P. O. Box 65743, Washington Square Station, Washington DC 20035-5743)

Reviewing Steffan's book at this time has become even more important in view of the fact that the full Circuit Court of Appeals recently overturned a favorable finding of a panel of three judges of the Circuit Court that had been in favor of Steffan's contention that saying he was a homosexual was not the same as saying he had entered into homosexual acts.

Couple this with the Pentagon just informing Keith Meinhold that he may once more be discharged for admitting that he is a homosexual brings to the forefront the whole military stance and the so-called "don't ask--don't tell" farce Sam Nunn and the Congress dreamed up earlier this year.

Editor GZ NEWS

In September, 1992, I bought an autographed copy of Joe Steffan's *HONOR BOUND* at a book signing. Its 245 pages detailing his frantic race for the finish line as a midshipman at the Naval Academy, his own personal "coming out," his expulsion for acknowledging who he was just a few weeks before graduating near the top of his class, his account of the Navy's tactics, and the legal battle that followed, as well as the reaction of his family—it played out before my imagination like an Oliver Stone film. But this is more than the story behind one of the pivotal cases of "The Ban;" it suggests a few moral principles fundamental to an evolving modern wold centered much more around the individual than any society in the past. Its central issue: What makes someone trustworthy, and what makes one successful in life?

Joe's narrative of his adventures at the Naval Academy are partly pure adventure, partly a musical sonata-allegro, and partly an epic poem.We see the regimentation and hazing of plebes to which he easily adjusted, his career in the Academy choirs culminating in two appearances singing the national anthem at the Army-Navy football classic, his summer submarine cruises complete with chess games, his taking his Academy Choir to see *A CHORUS LINE,* his own evolving leadership as an upper-classman. What an opportunity a service academy education is for the right person—a chance to see the world and grow quickly into adulthood while getting paid to do it.

How does one make it in this kind of environment? It takes incredible concentration and focus; yet, military life is very structured: There are no mortgage payments, corporate downsizings or hostile takeovers to worry about, nothing in the environment to take your life away from you if you're good enough at military routine, stay focused, and can cram in your studies in a very compressed time.

His subsequent account of his dismissal is indeed riveting, but what makes his story is the way he wraps everything around the notion of his personal identity. On page 16, he writes:

"What can be better than allowing people to live their lives as they choose, to give them the freedom to live their lives as they choose, to give them the freedom to take the limited time they have on earth and craft an existence that is uniquely theirs!"

Now, isn't this the central ideal—not only personal freedom but also personal autonomy—around which the conflicts in modern society revolve? After all, the painful restructuring of the economy and workplace, the mergers, downsizings, and resulting "layoffs" are arbitrarily denying people of average means control over their own lives, so that others can get rich. Well, not exactly. Any of us who live a comfortable "productive" life have always depended on the risk-taking of others in ways we don't think about anyway.

Joe talks a lot about the paradox of individual excellence, on the one hand, and teamwork, bonding, task and social cohesion, on the other, as the military must install both in its future officers. After all, doesn't the head-shaving on the first day of Plebe Summer make everybody "the same?" And, one of the worst offenses is bilging, deliberately making a teammate look bad by showing off. But one specific virtue of military teamwork is fungibility, the ability of each team member to do every other team member's job.

But, gradually individual performance and character take over, and central to all of this is the Honor Code. Steffan obviously believes

(cont. next page)

(HONOR BOUND Cont.)

that personal honor is the trait that earns a person his right to a "unique existence." And, on p. 145 he defines it without compromise:

"Personal honor is an absolute—you either have honor or you do not. No one can take it from you; it can only be surrendered willingly. And once it is surrendered, once it is compromised, it can never again be fully regained."

Someday, this may be known as one of the most powerful statements in American literature. The context for this principle, of course, was Steffan's answer to the question, "Are you a homosexual?) (Which had been brought about by an NIS investigation that should never have been initiated). The answer, a proud, "yes sir, I am"—and his refusal to hide his inner self just to get his Navy commission, in now the underlying legal problem with most of the constitutional challenges The Ban (whether "old" or "new" policy which in practice are the same). "equal protection" challenges to The Ban are not likely to succeed because gays are not a legally protected class and "Due Process" challenges may be undermined by HARDWICK, but the "Free Speech" challenge, based on this principle, could prove compelling indeed. That is, the statement "I am gay" is now held to be a statement of personal identity, something much broader than a "propensity" to engage in forbidden sexual acts. Of course, to convince conservative Justices of this will be no simple feat.What does this "identity" consist of? Perhaps the desire to explore mated psychological bonds for their own sake rather than for social approval, as suggested by psychotherapist Paul Rosenfels in the 1970's? Perhaps a biological gift—not sexual attraction per se, but a hypersensitivity to color and form that tends to make homosexual interest more likely? At least, in the recent decision by 3 Republican Appellant Judges in the 9th Circuit, the intangibility of this notion of identity seems to be overcome if the character of the person making the declaration is strong enough. Keith Meinhold, after all, made famous the simple explanation, "I am proud of who I am."

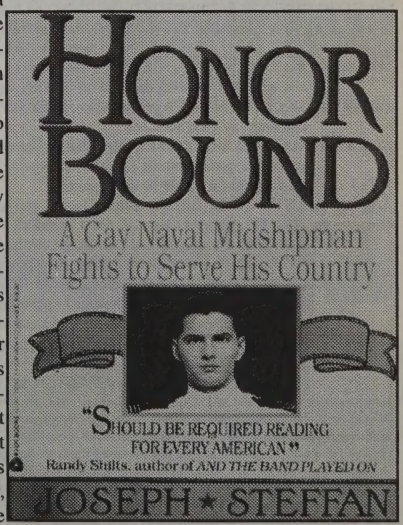
Honor has to be the most important part of a person's credibility. Civilized living requires that men and women be able to trust each other. Honor, in the workplace, would mean that when one actually sells one's work to the public, one had done the work with total concentration and will warrant the work to the best of his or her ability. In the military, lives depend on this. In the civilian world, the viability of businesses ultimately depend on trust.

But Joe's thesis makes us ponder what causes people to have, or not to have, honor. Some criminals, of course, simply have no moral values and care about nothing except their own gratification—we call this sociopathy. But more disturbing is the growing tendency towards dishonesty. We saw this recently in the Naval Academy's cheating scandal long after Steffan's dismissal; a Navy that kept Joe Steffan probably would not have experienced a Tailhook, a cheating scandal, a Schindler murder, or the constant discipline problems associated with spousal abuse. A more chilling example is the ring of "insider trading" associated with takeovers and mergers in the securities market throughout the 1980's. It seems the perpetrators were giving away the fact that they really couldn't earn an honest living, and stay "comfortable," if they were forced to do so by honest free-market competition (or by the Darwinian values forced on today's workplace.) In fact, the underlying cause of un-trustworthiness may be defensiveness, a person's suspicion that he doesn't really have what it takes to make it. Perhaps the biggest problem of defensiveness is that it keeps one from learning enough to keep up. The military paradigm is important for two reasons: It provides one way to overcome defensiveness by complete concentration on performance in a team environment, and it provides a chance to pay one's dues.

Conservatives like to point out a main reason for people not making it—the breakdown of the family. Men, especially, supposedly need to have responsibilities as husbands and fathers in order to remain useful adults and "trustworthy"citizens. A deeper reason may simply be the need for genuine human ties—even getting back to bonding and teamwork. There are certainly other ways some people can make genuine commitments to others outside of the traditional nuclear family. But this requires the freedom to be honest about the deepest parts of one's personal identity, sexuality. The aversion to "don't ask and don't tell" comes from the realization that the "privacy" paradigm just doesn't always work in this competitive, decentralized brave new world. Yet gays (men particularly) are going to remain under pressure that their identity is something more than a juvenile narcissism and upward affiliation.

Joe Steffan's book should make us ponder the character of the "best and brightest" of tomorrow's leaders. When we supposedly pick the cream of the crop for military service academies and over 100 of them cheat on an electrical engineering exam (60 MINUTES, 9/11/94), we ought to be very concerned. Has the world become too competitive, too "me-centered?" Has the balance provided by family and by "teamwork" been lost? Joe's book is also a movie that just has to be made, a film that could put away The Ban for good.

Honor Bound **is available at CHINOOK BOOKS for $10**


HONOR BOUND
A Gay Naval Midshipman Fights to Serve His Country
"SHOULD BE REQUIRED READING FOR EVERY AMERICAN"
Randy Shilts, author of AND THE BAND PLAYED ON
JOSEPH ★ STEFFAN

GAY AND LESBIAN MURDERS 1993-1994

A Sampling of cases used in research for *Murder Across America* P. 1

93 ANTHONY MARRERO, 44, Manchester Township New Jersey, 57, surgically dismembered, body parts stuffed in garbage bags

93 MICHAEL SAKARA, 56, Rockland NY, surgically dismembered, parts stuffed in garbage bags.

The above two cases are the last two of a series of killings in Philadelphia & NE in 1991-94

Jan 7 93 ANA MARIA ROSALES, age unknown, Washington DC, shot to death by a man asking what was wrong with her.

Jan 14 93 ELIZABETH KELLEY DAVIDSON, 25, Macon, Georgia, was shot to death by two male youths.

Apr 24 93 RAMMIE LAFITTE, age unknown,Shreveport, Louisiana, was beaten to death.

Jne 20 93 BRADLEY WANDLER, age unknown, Everett, Washington, was stabbed to death by an assailant who admitted he did it because he hated homosexuals.

Jul 7 93 07/07 KEITH MICHAEL OGDEN, 31, Azusa, California, was beaten to death by two youths

Jul 8 93 JOHN DUNCAN O'FRIEL, 46, Davis, California, was beaten to death by two youth.

Aug 3 93 HAROLD GROVER, 51, Lincoln, Nebraska, was stabbed to death by two 19 year old men.

Nov 93 NICHOLAS WEST 23, Tyler Texas, Tortured Stripped and shot fifteen times, the murderers obviously torturing him by shooting off fingers and toes, before shooting him in the head. Murdered because he was gay—no other reason.

Nov 11 93 JOE BALOG, age unknown, New Orleans, LA, was stabbed to death by gang of white men who chased he and a friend (the friend was injured) yelling anti-gay slurs

Dec 31 93 TEENA BRANDON, 21, LISA LAMBERT, 23, AND PHILLIP DEVINE, 22, Humboldt, Nebraska, were shot to death. Ms Brandon had been raped

Jan 94 MICHAEL BENISHEK (Age Unknown) San Antonio Texas, struck in the head and throat cut by a 29 year old male.

Feb 94 TOMMY MUSSICK 48, Midland Tx, shot 4 times in back of head by an 18 year old teen.

Mar 3 94 JOE TREVINO, El Paso Texas, age unknown, beaten, strangled and bludgeoned to death by two teenagers, who are now suspect in at least two other similar gay male murders.

Jan 25 94 LARRY LEGGETT, 43, Irving Texas,was stabbed to death with his own kitchen knife

Jun 22 94 LEOPOLDO QUINTANILLA Jr, 29, Irving Texas, bond and stabbed to death, His throat cut and genitals slashed.

Nov 18 94 LARRY DAVID ALLEN, Irving Texas, was thrown through a plate glass window nude after being stabbed numerous times by a parole violator from Arkansas who is suspect in two above murders:

These are by the same perpetrator and described as very brutal examples of overkill!!!

Currently, four other gay murders in Southern Texas are being investigated as probable hate crimes with no other motives and no suspects.

In Maryland, Virginia, Georgia and Florida, seven murders in 1994 are believed to be by the same serial killer, Gary Ray Bowles.

Mar 15 94 JOHN H. ROBERTS, 59, Daytona Florida

Apr 14 94 DAVID JARMAN, 38, Silver Springs Maryland

May 94 NAME UNKNOWN, Atlanta Georgia

May 5 94 MILTON BRADLEY, 72, Savannah Georgia, a disabled vet, beaten and strangled to death

May 18 94 ALBERT MORRIS, 37, Hilliard Fla, fingers broken and stomach blown away by shotgun blast.

Jun 6 94 HENRY WEATHERFORD JR., Richmond Virginia

All of above were identified as over kill/numerous stab wounds beyond those that would cause death.

Apr 03 94 JOHN ANTHONY BURWELL, San Antonio, Texas, 26, shot twelve time in the shoulders, back and head before being dumped off a bridge by a sixteen year old boy.

Jul 7 94 WILLIAM METZ, Age Unknown, Reno Nevada, stabbed 21 times by SKINHEAD Activists and anti-gay gang member.

Aug 17 94 MICHAEL BURZINSKI, 29, Houston, Texas (Montrose), shot in the head by four teenage boy -robbery apparent motive as teens had been following reports as to how "wealthy" gays are and they thought it would be easy money.

Aug 27 94 ANTON WALTER, 54, severely beaten and bound, died of heart attack related to trauma.

Oct 94 JOSEPH SHOEMAKE, 24, AND ROBERT WALTERS, 34, Laurel, Mississippi, both shot to death by a sixteen year old boy. He claims he was sexually threatened and killed out of "homo sexual panic"—this despite the fact that the case was first designated a robbery--murder. They had been beaten and shot "execution style." This by the way is the same district as Camp Sister Spirit and the investigation is handled by the same homophobic sheriff that mishandled the investigation of incidences at the Camp and has attended and participated in activities against Camp Sister Spirit. Even if sexual solicitation is involved, this is no excuse for murder. To date, there have been 64 acknowledged hate crimes in this small town, all gay related, in which the perpetrators are known, and no charges have been made.

Reported but lacking details at time of printing is the murder of four gay men in Southern North Carolina and Northern South Carolina and murders in Detroit, Michigan These are, in fact, but a small number of those reported and unreported, identified as gay related and not identified. GZ News thought to delay this article to gather more material and incidences but believe that we must make the gay population, and the population at large, aware of what is happening, what is being done to lesbians and gays across America. As we become aware of more incidences, and we solicit documentation of said incidences, and when we receive a report being conducted by the Anti-Violence Project of New York City in cooperation with the National Gay And Lesbian Task Force in December, we will report same to our readers.

NTC NOTES

BY DAVE CARTEE

HALF PRICE CLUB

There is a very simple way to save money on your long distance bill (and help Ground Zero). All you have to do is call **1-800-569-4NTC** from the phone your are switching. NTC will call you right back to verify the number you are calling from. You will tell the customer service representative that **Ground Zero** is your NTC Representative.

Then all you have to do is ask your friends and family to also call the 1-800 number to switch their service, identify you and your number, so that you all can save money. HOW MUCH? **VERY SUBSTANTIAL!!!** Just look at the Half price Rate Chart below.

HALF PRICE CLUB

MILEAGE Start	End	Day Per Min	Evening Per Min	Night/Wknd Per Min
0	10	$0.115	$0.065	$0.055
11	22	$0.115	$0.065	$0.060
23	55	$0.120	$0.075	$0.060
56	124	$0.125	$0.075	$0.060
125	292	$0.125	$0.080	$0.060
293	430	$0.130	$0.080	$0.060
431	925	$0.135	$0.080	$0.070
926	1910	$0.135	$0.085	$0.070
1911	3000	$0.135	$0.085	$0.070
3001	4250	$0.150	$0.105	$0.080
4251+		$0.165	$0.110	$0.085

Of course, you can still sign up for standard service by filling out the form on the opposite page and mailing it to GROUND ZERO.

DO IT NOW TO SAVE MONEY!

TODAY!

DONTCHA DO IT!!! DON'T TURN THIS PAGE 'TIL YOU READ THE ARTICLE

ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE AND 'TIL YOU FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW!!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

NTC National Telephone & Communications

SERVICE REQUEST

❑ Residential Dial-1 Service
❑ Business Dial-1 Service ❑ 800 Plus ❑ 800 Call Me

Customer Information *Please Print Clearly*

Name (as it appears on phone bill)

Physical Address (not a P.O. Box)

City | State | Zip

Billing Address (if different)

City | State | Zip

Service Information *List each number including area code*

Billing or Main Number
( )

Additional Number ( ) | Additional Number ( )

Present Long Distance Carrier | Estimated Long Distance Usage $ per month

Special Services *Check only the additional services you desire*

☐ Indicate Number of *FREE* Travel Calling Cards desired.

❑ 800 Call Me or 800 PLUS
Telephone number to *ring* on: ( ) _____.

❑ Attached is the 800 Carrier Transfer Form (1600) to transfer existing 800 number to NTC's 800 Plus.

Authorization — PLEASE READ REVERSE SIDE BEFORE SIGNING —

☑ **YES, I authorize National Telephone & Communications (NTC) to act as my agent in all matters relating to my long distance telephone service, and to notify my local phone company to connect me to the NTC network.**

Customer Signature
X

Date

Customer Name (Please Print)

Fill our the form above and mail to:
Ground Zero Ref #305001492
P. O. Box 1982
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

ABOUT MY AUTHORIZATION

I will be a customer of National Telephone & Communications (NTC). I am at least 18 years of age and have the authority to sign this Letter of Agency. I may designate only one long distance service. I will receive my bill for long distance usage I have incurred from NTC or I may be billed through my local phone company. My calls will be routed over NTC's designated network provider. My local telephone company may assess a service charge for each phone line I change. I agree to pay for any long distance charges I incur. NTC offers a Prompt Pay Discount when I pay my bill within 21 days. I will receive my Prompt Pay Discount as a credit on my next bill.

800 SERVICE

I understand that 800 Call Me service is designed for the customer whose 800 usage is estimated to be *less* than $50 per month. The 800 PLUS is designed for the customer whose 800 usage is estimated to be *more* than $50 per month.

RISK FREE

I understand that if I am dissatisfied with NTC's service or rates, NTC will, within the first 90 days upon my written request, reimburse me for the cost to switch me back to my original carrier.

EXCITING CUSTOMER INCENTIVES

After I've paid my first 5 consecutive long distance bills from NTC (within 21 days), I will be entitled to select a vacation package with complimentary airfare or accommodations. After I've paid 12 consecutive bills on time, another vacation or a two-for-one cruise will be offered.

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Accommodations are provided when I purchase two non-promotional round trip airfares. A $25 processing and handling fee will be paid to NTC. Alternative dates for travel may be offered. NTC is not responsible for the performance of the travel/tour agents, or cruise lines. Other conditions and restrictions may apply.

ADDITIONAL NUMBERS

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( ) _____ ( ) _____
( ) _____ ( ) _____

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Ground Zero's Volunteer Sheet

Ground zero is an all volunteer non-profit organization. To survive we need and accept all help that is offered. There are many different volunteer positons available and no experience is necessary to participate... We believe your volunteer experience at Ground Zero will be self-fulfilling and beneficial to the community. Thank you for your support

Please print and fill in all information, Thank You.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: ( )_____
When is the best time to contact you?_____

Please be specific in what days and times you are available to volunteer

_____
_____
_____

Below is a list of areas where there is an ongoing need for volunteers. Please circle any that you would like to become involved with.

Office Aid	Fundraiser	Information Distributor
Journalists	Telemarketer	Grant Writer
Word Processor	Media	Data Entry

If there are other areas of interest, or you have any qualifications of skills that you would like to offer please explain in this section.

_____
_____
_____
_____

GLAIL ASSAILS GINGRICH

Denver- November 24, 1994

The Colorado Chapter of Gays and Lesbians Against Immoral Lifestyles today criticized "family values" comments made by Newt Gingrich and pointed out that Gingrich is himself a practicing adulterer and callous wife dumper.

In comments published today, Gingrich has reportedly said that it is madness to suggest that a gay or lesbian couple can constitute a family.

Despite his "family values" rhetoric, however, Gingrich dumped his first wife shortly after being elected to Congress. According to the *New York Times (11/24/94)*, Gingrich tried to force the terms of his divorce on his wife while she was in a hospital being treated for cancer. He has repeatedly tried to cheat his wife out of alimony support.

"What hypocrisy," said Rick Cendo, president of GLAIL CO, "There are gay men and lesbians who have been in committed relationships for 20, 30 years. And here come this fellow who is himself an adulterer and total family wrecker, and he pronounces these couples not real families because their sexual orientation is different than his. If anybody is not in a real family, it's Newt Gingrich." ∇

The above press release is from GLAIL and is reprinted in its entirety.

GROUND ZERO SUSTAINING MEMBER
YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE
GROUND ZERO IS A 501- C3 ORGANIZATION

YES! COUNT ME IN AS A SUPPORTER OF GROUND ZERO IN THE STRUGGLE FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANGENDERED EQUALITY

I, WE PLEDGE OUR ❑ **MONTHLY** ❑ **QUARTERLY** ❑ **SEMI-ANNUAL**

NAME_____
ADDRESS_____
_____
PHONE #_____**HOME**
_____**WORK**

❑ **I WILL PAY BY CHECK; PLEASE SEND ME A REMINDER NOTICE.**

PLEASE BILL MY: ❑ **MASTER-CARD** ❑ **VISA**

CARD NUMBER _____**EXP. DATE**_____
SIGNATURE_____

Amount Pledged for each designated period
$_____

❑ **I CANNOT MAKE A REGULAR PLEDGE, BUT I CAN MAKE A ONE TIME DONATION OF $**_____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT,

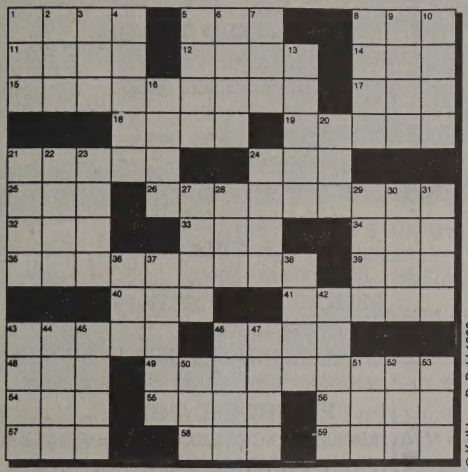
PLEASE RETURN THIS CARD TO: **GROUND ZERO**
P.O.BOX 1982
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80901

GROUND ZERO has received a grant commitment to match all sustaining memberships from a major funding source.!! Send your contribution in today!

The Crossword below is published with the gracious approval of Kathleen DeBold. It may be found in her book *WORD GAYMES: 101 puzzles with lesbian and gay themes*, Boston: Alyson Publications, Inc., 1993.

Kathleen is the Deputy Director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund in Washington D. C. Her puzzles appear regularly in the *Washington Blade*, *Lambda Book Report* and other gay and lesbian publications throughout the country. The solution for this crossword will appear in the next *GZ NEWS*.

WORD GAYME # 22: THE (NOT) RIGHT WING



© Kathleen DeBold 1993

ACROSS

1. Jim Holobaugh's org, once
5. Hallucinogenic
8. Classifieds
11. Region
12. Upon
14. Balderdash
15. Right-wing characteristic
17. Anger
18. Drug addict
19. Hobo
21. Solo
24. Sib of sis
25. Cut off
26. Right-wing characteristic
32. Chemical suffix
33. Brazilian city

ACROSS (Cont'd)

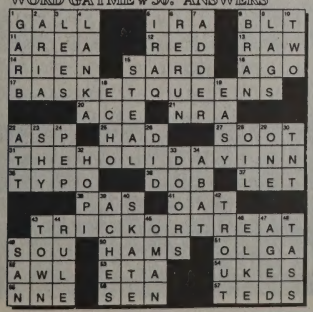
34. *Cheers* star Perlman
35. Right wing characteristic
39. Deadly snake
40. Zero
41. Slacks
43. Put back in the sack
46. Schooner
48. Baseball stat
49. Right wing characteristic
54. Cecil Beaton, e.g.
55. Softball group
56. Lesbos, for one
57. Book on gay youth, *One Teenager in* ___
58. Before
59. Puts down

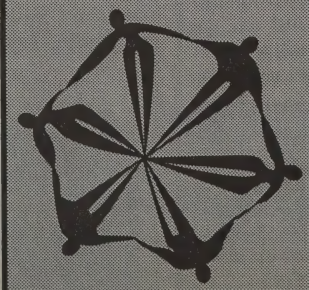
DOWN

1. Queen Latifah's music
2. Hockey great Bobby ___
3. Ball holder
4. Louisiana native
5. Load with cargo
6. Mix up
7. "What's up, ___?"
8. Solo vocal piece
9. Campus housing
10. Gait
13. Culture dish
16. Exploited
20. Legendary bird
21. Jai ____
22. Yearn
23. Exposed
24. Nations united
27. Mountain range dividing Europe and Asia
28. Bowler's target
29. Persia
30. Exam
31. Jaws
36. "Stop ___ dime."
37. Proper
38. Heroic
42. Spring month
43. Rita Mae Brown mystery, ____ *in Pieces*
44. Great lake
45. Farm building
46. Practice boxing
47. Paul Monette work, *Halfway* ____
51. Slangy yes
52. Foxy
53. Judith McDaniel novel, *Just Say* ___

Solution to last month's Puzzle

WORD GAYME # 30: ANSWERS





GROUND ZERO

1994

***Maintains a full-time office**

***Publishes monthly, highly respected newsletter**

***Supplies information to thousands of groups/ind requesting**

***Hosted Voice in Unity Conference**

***Completed and distributed *Tearing Down the Walls and* two other videos**

***Presented author Richard Mohr**

***Launched *"We Are All Family"* Campaign**

***Instituted Community-wide Speakers Bureau**

***Major founder, organizer, supporter of CHESHIRE BALL--*Making Smiles for Our Children* Fundraiser**

***Brought Mel White to town, sponsored Fast for Understanding**

***Sponsored concerts by Romanovsky and Phillips, Lucie Bleu Tremblay and Jamie Anderson**

***Co-sponsored with La Guia Jose Zuniga as PrideFest Grand Marshall**

Sponsored appearance of Michael Bussee at PrideFest 1994 Film Festival and showing of *"One Nation Under God"

***Coordinated Community activities for National Coming Out Week**

***Sponsored 8 televised OUT Series Programs on Colorado Springs Cablevision**

***Supported GAY booth at State Fair**

***Hosted Chinook Fund Conference in Colorado Springs**

***Coordinated news and media activities with National, State and Local Press**

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

DEAR FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

Many parents, friends and family members of lesbians and gays are going through a coming out process of their own. They are often dismayed and do not understand why their friend or family member is gay. Often, they blame themselves. Perhaps the most common question a parent asks is 'WHAT DID I DO WRONG?'

Of course, we know that they did nothing wrong, there is nothing to be blamed for and P-FLAG is there to help them through these most difficult periods and to give continuing support. They arrive at meetings, often after long periods of debate, hesitancy and concern, seeking to understand and to discover how to love and support their gay friends and family.

One element that is very important in this process is for those who seek an understanding to get to know other gays and lesbians than those related to or important to them, so that they can see and understand--that they can get to know--that gays and lesbians are diverse, productive and loving humans who live their lives, work, go to church, feel pain and love and are concerned with their community and its welfare. They must learn that the picture painted by certain elements is false and this picture is often the only one they have ever seen in relation to homosexuals.

Perhaps the most valuable way and often the only way they can do this is by meeting gays and lesbians at P-FLAG meetings. Unfortunately, and it seems to be related to the overturning of Amendment 2, gays and lesbians are not showing up at P-FLAG meetings in any numbers and often are not showing up at all.

Boys and girls; ladies and gentlement, your friends and parents need you as much as you need them. Amendment 2 is a miniscule part of what this is all about and many years after no one knows anymore what Amendment 2 was all about, parents, friends and families of lesbians and gays will still need support just as lesbians and gays yet to come will need theirs.

So I am implore you to come out to P-FLAG meetings. They only occur once a month. Make the first one you attend in December (on Wednesday the 14th), when we will be having our Christmas party. Remember, we love you. Remember to love us.

Sincerely,

Gerda Fletcher
President

Resource Guide

ANTI- VIOLENCE PROJECT
(719) 338-8899

COLO. GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (CGRA)
P. O. Box 15504 CO 80935 (719) 576-CGRA

DIGNITY
P.O. Box 1172 COS CO 80901 (719) 635-5773

DIVERSITY CHORUS

GROUND ZERO INC (GZ)
P. O. Box 1982 COS CO 80901 V 635-6086 F 635-6106

HIDE AND SEEK (H&S)
505 W. Colorado Ave COS CO 80903 (719) 634-9393

HOUR GLASS (HR)
2748 Airport Rd. COS CO 80910 (719) 471-2104

INSIDE/OUT YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP
Call Regina 578-3160

LA GUIA
P.O. Box 1335 COS CO 80901 (719) 473-6771

MONARCH HOUSE (MHG)
P.O. Box 8169 COS CO 80933 (719) 634-0133

NEW PHAZES (NP)
P. O. Box 6485 COS CO 80934 (718) 634-0236

PENTHOUSE (PH)
1715 N. Academy Blvd COS CO 80909 (719) 597-3314

P-FLAG COS CO
P.O. BOX 10076 COS CO 80932 VM (719)

P-FLAG PUEBLO
24173 Preston Rd. Pueblo CO 81006 (719) 545-7426

PIKES PEAK GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER (PPGLCC)
P. O. Box 607 COS CO 80901 (719) 471-4429

PIKES PEAK METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC)
730 N. Tejon St COS CO 80903 (719) 634-3771

PUEBLO AFTER 2
P. O. Box 1602 Pueblo CO 81002 V/F (719) 564-4004

SOUTHERN COLO. AIDS PROJECT (S-CAP)
514 S. Tejon St. COS CO 80903
V (719) 578-9092 F (719) 578-8690

TRUE COLORS (TC'S)
1865 N. Academy Blvd. COS CO 80909 (719) 637-0773

UNITED COURT OF THE RISING SUN EMPIRE (UCRSE)
P. O. Box 6925 COS CO 80904 (719) 447-1092

IF YOUR ORGANIZATION OR ACTIVITY IS NOT LISTED CALL 635-6086

DECEMBER

Send your listings to GZ CALENDAR, P. O. Box 1982
COS CO 80901 FAX: (719) 635-6106 V (719) 635-6086
Please, Make Submissions by the Twentieth of each month

1 Thursday

NATIONAL AIDS AWARENESS DAY
CONTACT: S-CAP
DIVERSITY CHORUS REHERSAL
7PM All Souls Unit. Church

2 Friday

MCC BINGO Not in Dec.

UCRSE SHOW 10:50/Midn
H&S Benefit S-CAP

3 Saturday

TOO F.I.N.E. MIND, a Women's band from NM.
H&S BRANDING IRON
DIGNITY MASS 7PM
SACRED HEART
THE PENTHOUSE 8PM
Decoration Party
Free Egg Nog

4 Sunday

UCRSE Holiday Gift Bazarre 1-7PM
Benefit S-CAP
Vendor Info 685-5509
MCC SERVICE 5PM
All Soul's Unit. Church

5 Monday

PPGLCC BINGO 7PM 21st St
CGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:30PM
Elections

6 Tuesday

GROUND ZERO
Exec. Bd. Meeting 7PM
PPGLCC BINGO 7PM 21st St

TRUE COLORS announces it is regularly open
Wed.--Sat.

8 Thursday

DIVERSITY CHORUS REHERSAL
7PM All Souls Unit. Church

9 Friday

MCC BINGO Not in Dec
ANNUAL MISS HIDE 'N SEEK CONTEST H&S

10 Saturday

UCRSE WINTER COTILLION $10 ADV $12 DOOR
Cocktails 6PM
Dinner 7PM
H&S Branding Iron
Benefit S-CAP
Show to follow
PENTHOUSE MALE REVIEW 10:30 PM

11 Sunday

MCC SERVICE 5PM
All Soul's Unit. Church

12/13 Mon/Tues

PPGLCC BINGO 7PM
21st St.

14 Wednesday

P-FLAG Meeting West Intergenerational Center
6PM Newcomers Meeting
Everyone is invited at 7PM for a Christmas Party

15 Thursday

PPGLCC BOARD MEETING 7PM
DIGNITY SUPPORT GR.
Sacred Heart Rm 9 7PM
DIVERSITY CHORUS REHERSAL
7PM All Souls Unit. Church

16 Friday

MCC BINGO Not in Dec
SPECIAL SHOW FROM DENVER at the H&S

17 Saturday

DIVERSITY CHORUS IN CONCERT Fundraiser
The Penthouse 8PM
DIGNITY MASS 7PM
SACRED HEART
Christmas Party Follows
THE PENTHOUSE
FULL MOON PARTY & Annual Stripoff Contest
UCRSE HOLIDAY SHOW & Giant Stocking Givaway (Raffle Tickets $1 on $500 worth of merchandise.
H&S S-CAP Benefit

18 Sunday

MCC SERVICE 5PM
A CHRISTMAS CANTATA
Followed by a Christmas Party
All Souls Unitarian Church

19 Monday

CGRA BD. MEETING 7PM

20 Tuesday

GROUND ZERO 7PM
Exec . Board Meeting
PPGLCC BINGO 7PM 21ST ST

21 Wednesday

PPGLCC BINGO 7PM
21st St.

22 Thursday

DIVERSITY CHORUS REHERSAL
7PM All Souls Unit.Church

23 Friday

MCC Bingo Not in Dec.

24 Saturday

MCC SERVICE All Souls 4PM
TRUE COLORS
All Night Specials
THE PENTHOUSE
All Night Specials
H&S Denver Special. Show

25 Sunday

H&S Noon to 3PM
Free Community Dinner
MCC SERVICE 5PM
All Soul's Unit. Church

27 Tuesday

GZ Exec. Bd Meet. 7PM
PPGLCC BINGO 7PM 21st St

28 Wednesday

PPGLCC Bingo 7PM 21st St

29 Thursday

DIVERSITY CHORUS
7PM All Souls Unit. Ch.

30 Friday

MCC Bingo Not in Dec.

31 Saturday

DIGNITY Mass/Pblo. 6:30
TRUE COLORS Party
Call 633-0773 for Info.
THE PENTHOUSE Party
Hors d', Champagne,
Party Favors $7.00
H&S 22nd. NYE GALA
Dinner 6-10
Dance & Party, All Bars
Fetish Ball in ANNEX

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Colorado Springs, CO 80904
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Tamara Bartlett

LOVE MAKES A FAMILY

Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church
730 N. Tejon
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Voice/Fax 719-634-3771
Rev. Nori J. Rost, Pastor
Worship Time Sunday, 5:00 PM
Office Hours Tue-Wed: 1 PM-9 PM, Thu-Fri: 9 AM-5 PM

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Women's Health Nurse Practitioner
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2418 West Colorado Avenue • Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 632-9999

Linda Sutton, M.A.
counselor • mediator • consultant
love matters for lesbians and gays
611 N. Nevada Ave. • Colorado Springs • 632-0465

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